

The Reliability of Your Bible



Text from Great Isaiah scroll at Qumran - Cave 1 (1QIsa^a)

Lester Hutson

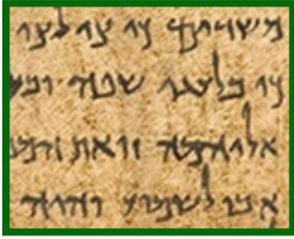
The Reliability of Your Bible

Dr. Lester Hutson

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The Reliability of Your Bible

Lesson 1

Getting God's Word to Mankind

Text from Great Isaiah scroll
at Qumran - Cave 1 (1QIsa^a)

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND GOALS

- My goal is to enable you to take an _____, _____ look at the Bible you own. It is doubtful that you have a copy in Hebrew or in Greek or that you could read it if you did. Most likely yours is an English copy, and there are many English translations or versions. They are not all alike. There are reasons why that is true. We will look at those reasons, and hopefully see how important or unimportant those reasons are.
- This is a search for _____. My objective is to come as close as I possibly can to learning what God actually said when He gave His Word to those who wrote the Scriptures. I do not want a copy of the Scriptures which says what someone else says it says or even what I want it to say or not say; I want a copy that includes what God said when He gave it, no more and no less.
- The subject is not as cut and dried as you might think. There are many complex factors in the picture of originally receiving God's Word and then passing it on from generation to generation and from one language to another in a pure form. In this seminar we will look at many of those factors.
- A second goal of mine is to cause you to trust and support the Bible you own because you _____ that it is a good, reliable translation.
 - Too many believe in one translation over another because someone they trust said it's the best, not because they know the issues and see them for themselves that the Bible they use is sound. This is an *ad hominem* position which is a position based on emotion and personality, neither fact nor evidence.¹
 - This seminar will not make an expert out of you; it will open your eyes and provide you with factual evidence with which to evaluate your stance and with a list of resource materials.

¹ James R. White, *The King James Only Controversy*, (Minneapolis, Minnesota: Bethany House, 2009), 277.

**GOD'S TASK OF GETTING HIS WORD TO MANKIND
AND KEEPING IT PURE OVER THE AGES**

Revealing Himself to Humanity

- Three revelations.
 - His natural _____. **Psalm 19:1-3, Romans 1:20**
 - His _____. **John 1:1, 14, 18**
 - His written _____. **1 Corinthians 2:10**
- The God to man process. **1 Corinthians 2:1-16**
 - A passage about divine revelation and its confirmation.
 - **Verses 1-7.**
 - The wisdom of _____; not of Paul or other humans.
 - Divine _____ by the Holy Spirit.
 - **Verses 8-9.**
 - No one knew the thinking of God apart from _____.
 - Impossible to know through _____ methods.
 - The Scientific Method.
 - The General Consensus Method.
 - The Introspection Method.
 - **Verses 10-13, 16.**
 - Divine _____.
 - Through the _____ and _____.
 - **Verses 14-15**
 - The “*natural man*” is not phraseology about a person’s salvation. It’s a reference to the perception of God by all men through their own natural abilities.
 - No man, _____ or _____, could possibly have known the things revealed in the Word of God apart from divine revelation.
 - This is not a passage teaching that:
 - God will somehow open the minds of only a select few whom God predetermined to be saved so that they alone can know and understand the truths of God.

Getting God's Word to Mankind

- A person can comprehend divine or biblical truth only if God apart from any choice on the individual's part opens his mind.
- The idea that a person must be saved or *spiritual* before he is capable of hearing and understanding the truths of God reverses God's divine order that faith and salvation come _____ hearing and believing, and never before. **Romans 10:14, 17.**
- The divine argument is:
 - Man in his natural estate and by natural perception methods could _____ come up with the truths set forth in the Bible.
 - For man to know these truths, God had to divinely reveal them.
 - God did reveal His truths to humanity:
 - Not to each man individually.
 - But to the prophets and Apostles. **Acts 10:39-42. 2 Peter 1:16, 19-21. Luke 1:2.**
 - The Bible is God's written revelation through His _____ spokesmen.
 - Every man, lost or saved, has the capacity to hear and understand God and His truths.
 - In all ages it is not a matter of capacity, but it is a matter of _____. **Isaiah 28:11-12. 1 Corinthians 9:21**
 - All men are without _____. **Romans 1:20**

Making Sure His Revelation Was Kept Pure and Not Lost over the Centuries.

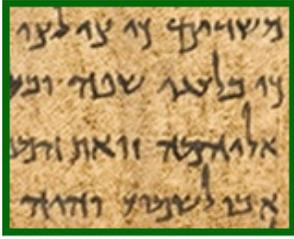
- Though He gave His written Word little by little over almost 16 centuries, He gave it to mankind _____ one time. It is *"the faith which was once delivered unto the saints,"* **Jude 3.** He never has given His revelation individually and privately on a wholesale basis to each man directly in the individual's heart. To the contrary, He gave it to pre-selected men who wrote God's words and made them available to the rest of us. *"Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead,"* **Acts 10:41.**
- After God initially gave His Word, there was the never-ending task of preserving it.
 - From the first, Satan has been bent on changing and corrupting God's Word. **Genesis 3:1-5**
 - Due to human frailties and error, the task of making error-free copies in one language for century after century was a _____ _____. "People are not capable of copying a lengthy piece of written material without introducing some errors." ² Getting it into other languages and keeping it pure in many languages escalated the challenge.

² D.A. Carson, *The King James Debate*, (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 1979), 15.

THE RELIABILITY OF YOUR BIBLE

- God's Word is for the whole world, not merely one people or language. That means His Word must be conveyed into all languages. Conveying His Word from one language to many others without corruption has been an overwhelming challenge.
- The Bible has been _____ into most languages.
 - By 1991 there were 135 complete English translations plus 99 abridged English Bibles. Additionally there were 293 translations of the New Testament only.³
 - Though there are numerous differences in these translations both in choice of words and in doctrine, each claims to be the Word of God. Most are viewed as inspired, infallible and inerrant.
 - In a typical church worship service there will be many translations with major differences. For example:
 - In **1 Timothy 3:16** the KJV says, "*God was manifest in the flesh.*" The NASV says, "*He who was revealed in the flesh.*" The NIV says, "*He appeared in a body.*" In the latter two, deity is left out of the picture.
 - The NASV and the NIV have footnotes that say some of the oldest, most reliable manuscripts omit **Mark 16:9-20**.
 - Consider **Luke 2:33**. The KJV says, "*Joseph and his mother.*" The NIV says "*The child's father and his mother.*" NASV says, "*His father and his mother.*" The virgin birth is left out.
 - It is not difficult to see how this:
 - Creates enormous doubt, confusion and skepticism.
 - Undermines belief in the credibility and infallibility of the Bible.

³ D.A. Waite, *Defending the King James Bible*, (Collingswood, New Jersey: The Bible for Today Press, 1995), 203-217.



The Reliability of Your Bible

Lesson 2

The Hebrew Old Testament Source Texts

Text from Great Isaiah scroll
at Qumran - Cave 1 (1QIsa^a)

A BRIEF EXPLANATION OF SOURCE TEXTS AND TARGET TEXTS

- A *Source* Text and a *Target* Text.
- The Importance of a Source Text and its Impact on all Future Offspring.

OLD TESTAMENT SOURCE TEXTS

The Original Hebrew Old Testament Texts Were Written Between B.C. 1500 and 400

- They were written by _____.
- They were kept and copied by _____ such as Ezra.

The Masorets and Their Text ¹

- Masoretic is from the Hebrew word masar meaning “to _____.”
- The Masorets were traditionalist scholars who guarded the Old Testament Hebrew text. There were families of Masorets in Babylon, Tiberius and Palestine.
- The Masorets flourished from about 500 - 1000 A.D.
- Between 600 and 700 the Masorets _____ the Hebrew Old Testament. The standardized text of the Masorets is called the Masoretic Text.
- Daniel Bomberg published this Masoretic Text in 1516-17. It is called the *First Rabbinic Bible*. Bomberg published a 2nd edition in 1524-25. It was edited by Abraham Ben Chayyim and called the *Second Rabbinic Bible*. This became the standard Hebrew Old Testament text for the next 400 years. Nobody translated the Old Testament apart from this text.
- This was the primary _____ text used by the King James translators.

¹ Ibid., 26-27.

The Methods Which Produced the Masoretic Texts ²

- The Masorets used only parchments made from the _____ of clean animals. The skins must be prepared by Jews only and skins must be joined together only by strings made from clean animals.
- Each column of text must have no less than 48 or more than 60 lines. The entire copy must be lined before the copying was started.
- The ink must be black and prepared by a special recipe.
- No word could be written from _____. To avoid duplications, omissions and other errors, the scribe must have an authentic copy before him, and he must read and pronounce aloud each word before writing it.
- Before writing the word for *God* the scribe must _____ his pen. He must wash his entire body before writing the name *Jehovah*.
- There were strict rules concerning forms of the letters, spaces between letters, words and sections, the use of the pen and the color of the parchment.
- The revision of a roll must be within 30 days after the work was finished, otherwise the work was worthless. One mistake on a sheet condemned the sheet. If three mistakes were found on any page, the entire manuscript was condemned.
- Every word and letter was _____. If one letter was omitted, added or touched another, the manuscript was condemned and destroyed at once.

Efforts to Discredit the Original Hebrew Texts

- In 1937 a German Hebrew scholar named Rudolf Kittle deserted the Ben Chayyim Text in favor of a text known as the Ben Asher Masoretic Text. This text is based on a Leningrad Manuscript. It was not the traditional Masoretic Text that had been the standard for over 400 years. Kittle's work is called the *Biblia Hebraica Kittle*.³
 - According to Kittle, the Ben Asher Text differed from the Ben Chayyim Text over 20,000 times.
 - The reason why Kittle and most seminaries use the Ben Asher Text is because it is _____. It is commonly believed that an *older* manuscript is always better than a later manuscript. As we shall later see, that is not necessarily true.
 - Here are some of the reasons why Kittle and those who published a later Hebrew text known as *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* chose to *correct* the standard Masoretic Text.⁴
 - They preferred the Greek Septuagint translation over the original Hebrew manuscripts of the Old Testament prophets.
 - _____. Often they simply thought it was better to make changes.

² Ibid., 24-26.

³ Ibid., 27-28.

⁴ Ibid., 29-31.

The Hebrew Old Testament Source Texts

- They used the *Latin Vulgate* to _____ the original Hebrew manuscripts.
 - They used Josephus to correct the Masoretic Text.
 - They used ancient Hebrew scribal _____ to correct the Masoretic Text.
 - They used a variety of other documents, many in Greek which were written long after Christ, to correct the original Hebrew. (The last original Old Testament manuscript was written about 400 years before Christ.)
- Textual criticism.
 - _____ criticism has become a major tool of modern “*scholars*” to undermine and discredit the Scriptures.
 - There is lower and higher criticism.
 - Higher textual criticism can hardly be called a science or legitimate practice. It mainly uses the internal structure of texts to undermine their validity. Few higher critics agree among themselves. Higher textual criticism originated mainly in Germany in the 19th century. Most higher critics are either atheistic or pantheistic. They deny divine inspiration and approach the Scriptures exclusively from a secular standpoint.

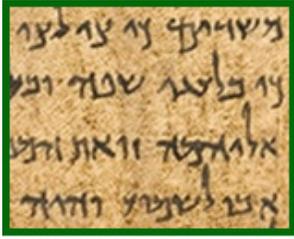
They contend that most of the Old Testament was written by “redactors” during or after the Babylonian captivity. They contend that the Scriptures are not to be taken literally, but that biblical accounts are only figurative analogies to spiritual realities.
 - Lower textual criticism looks at manuscripts and seeks to determine which ones are _____ and _____.
 - Not all textual criticism is bad; however, it must be generally viewed with great caution.

The Dead Sea Scrolls

- Prepared and hidden by the Essenes just before and after the time of _____.
- Discovered in caves at Qumran in 1947-1956.
- Confirmed the accuracy of the _____ Text.
- Exposed the corruption of the *corrected* texts of Kittle and *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*.

The King James Translation

- The King James translation is the _____ translation of the Old Testament that is based mainly on the Masoretic texts.
- The translators had access to many other source texts, but they translated the Old Testament almost exclusively from the Masoretic Texts.
- The Septuagint was also consulted by the King James translators.



The Reliability of Your Bible

Lesson 3

New Testament Source Texts

Text from Great Isaiah scroll
at Qumran - Cave 1 (1QIsa^a)

TWO BASIC _____ OF NEW TESTAMENT SOURCE DOCUMENTS

A basic understanding of available source texts and evidence is important to any person seeking to confirm the reliability of his Bible.

- There are currently well over 5,200 _____ ancient Greek manuscripts of a part or the whole of the New Testament. The number continues to rise with new discoveries. In addition to these, there are about 8,000 manuscripts of very early translations into languages such as Latin, Syriac and others.¹ In addition to these, there are hundreds of writings by early Christian leaders. From these writings more than 86,000 quotations or allusions to Scriptures have been counted.²
- Modern scholars have categorized these ancient documents into what is known as *text types*. There are four: (1) the _____ Text, (2) the Western Text, (3) the Caesarean Text and (4) the Alexandrian Text.³ Though there are slight differences, the Western, Caesarean and Alexandrian texts all fall under one umbrella and constitute one text type. There is also debate as to whether or not the *text types* categorization is even valid.⁴

BYZANTINE TEXT

This family of documents is generally known as the Byzantine, Majority manuscripts, the Received Text and sometimes the Traditional Text.

- The _____ *manuscripts* can be misleading terminology. Often this terminology is used in reference to the family of documents known as the Byzantine or Majority texts. This is because the number of manuscripts in this family is far greater than all other ancient biblical manuscripts combined.
- The Byzantine Text (the Received Text/Traditional Text) is not _____ document, but rather a family and stream of manuscripts which began with the apostolic churches and continued to appear at intervals down through the Christian era. It was protected in different places by the wisdom and scholarship of those who believed and practiced first-century Christianity: by the

¹ Carson, 16-17.

² Waite, 57.

³ Carson, 26-27.

⁴ Ibid., 105.

New Testament Source Texts

Christians in Palestine when the Romans destroyed Jerusalem in 70 A.D., by the church at Antioch, by the Eastern Orthodox Church headquartered at Constantinople, by the Italian Christians of northern Italy, by the churches in southern France, by the Celtic Christians in Great Britain, by the pre-Waldenses, by the Waldenses and even by many of the people and churches of the Reformation.⁵ Most manuscripts in this family are dated around 400 or later; however, there is evidence that copies of this type existed much earlier.⁶

- Copies of the Scriptures in this family are in very close _____ and there is no doctrinal disagreement. It cannot be denied that they form one family in message. Over the years the central message of these manuscripts became known as the Received Text. Manuscripts embodying the common truths of this family of texts were translated into Latin. Scriptures of this sort were known as the Latin Vulgate and are totally different from Jerome's Latin Vulgate. "Vulgate" means *common*. These were the most common Scriptures among many first century Christians during the Dark Ages.⁷ It is noteworthy that many of the ancient manuscripts in the other family of documents support this family in many places.
- Even the _____ of the Received Text admit that nineteen-twentieths of all Greek manuscripts are of this class.⁸ The Received Text made its way into Latin and many other languages, but all are in basic agreement and support this family of documents. Not all of the ancient manuscripts state passages in the exact same way, but they do not contradict or undermine each other. No critic "has yet explained how a long, slow process spread out over many centuries as well as over a wide geographical area, and involving a multitude of copyists, who often knew nothing of the state of the text outside their own monasteries or scriptoria, could achieve this widespread uniformity out of the diversity presented by the earlier forms of text." Any explanation other than divine guidance "imposes impossible strains on our imagination."⁹
- The _____ of this family of documents is attested:
 - By the overwhelming _____ of extant documents all of which closely support essentially the same wording, claims and theology.
 - Over 5,200 ancient Greek New Testament manuscripts exist in part or in whole today.
 - In addition to Greek manuscripts, there are manuscripts in Syriac, Latin, Gallic and many other languages bringing the base to well over 24,000.¹⁰
 - There are only approximately 45 extant manuscripts of the Alexandrian family of texts.¹¹
 - By multiple references in _____ that refer to and quote from non-extant copies that harmonize with and support this family.

⁵ Benjamin G. Wilkinson, *Our Authorized Bible Vindicated, Which Bible?* 5th ed., ed. David Otis Fuller, (Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids International Publishers, 1977), 187.

⁶ Carson, 106-107.

⁷ Wilkinson, 219.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 188.

⁹ Zane C. Hodges, *The Greek Text of the King James Version, Which Bible?*, 33-34.

¹⁰ <https://carm.org/manuscript-evidence>

¹¹ Waite, 45.

- When Constantine came to power and made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire, it appears to me that the recognized Scripture text was relatively unpolluted. He demanded copies of the Scriptures be made and took some of them with him to Constantinople when he moved the capitol from Rome in 330. Constantinople became Byzantium and the epicenter of the Byzantine Empire. This corresponds to the time when copies of the Byzantine manuscripts began to proliferate and seems to account for the larger number of extant copies.

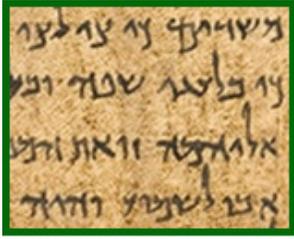
ALEXANDRIAN TEXT

There is also a small family of manuscripts which generally known as the Alexandrian Text.

- This is a very _____ family and stream of documents. It consists mainly of:
 - Two major Greek documents: The Vatican MS (Codex B) and the Sinaitic (Codex Aleph).
 - Codex Alexandrinus which is supposedly a hybrid with Byzantine text gospels and Alexandrian text elsewhere.¹²
 - A small number of approximately 45-50 ancient documents which are somewhat infected with Gnosticism and Greek philosophy.
 - The Latin _____ of Jerome which is the main source text for the Catholic Douay Bible.
 - The Jesuit Bible of 1582.
- This small family of manuscripts has been rejected as _____ to the Byzantine or Majority manuscripts for a variety of reasons. Defenders of the Byzantine Text contend that:
 - The Byzantine Text is closer to the originals than any other text type.
 - The other text types were rejected by the early church.
 - The reason that other text types are shorter is because they omitted material from an early Byzantine type text.
 - Those omissions were prompted by heretical beliefs such as Arianism, which denied the deity of Christ.
 - The uncial type of the Alexandrian manuscripts originated in the 4th century under heretical conditions and poor scholarship.
 - That much of Christendom used the Byzantine Text from the 4th through the 19th centuries is proof of _____ providential blessings upon it.¹³

¹² White, 70.

¹³ Carson, 41-42.



The Reliability of Your Bible

Lesson 4 Early Corruptions

Text from Great Isaiah scroll
at Qumran - Cave 1 (1QIsa^a)

GNOSTICISM

- From the Greek word gnosis meaning _____. Before the New Testament was completed, false teachers with their own ideas and interpretations began to multiply. **2 Peter 2:2**. Within a few years the tendency grew and increased into a great theological system known as Gnosticism. It claimed to be a more _____ form of Christianity. Gnostics claimed to have knowledge others didn't have. They just made it up without any basis. Multitudes were drawn into it.
- Some characteristics of Gnosticism.¹
 - Evil is resident in _____ things, therefore all material things especially the flesh are bad.
 - The God of Scriptures made the flesh, thus He is _____.
 - They made up the idea that a good, pre-Scripture God over time generated a line of _____ beings. One of these was a female named Sophia (wisdom) who had a miscarriage with resulted in beings called demiurges. Among these was Jehovah, the God of the Scriptures. He was evil and generated the creation.
 - They believed in Christ, but not _____ because Jesus had a fleshly body and flesh is evil. They thus rejected the incarnation, Jesus' human life, His body, His death, His burial and His resurrection. They also rejected His ascension and His Second Coming.
- The true Christian community of those times remained _____ to the truth. They knew Gnosticism was wrong, rejected the heresy and broke with Marcion, the chief Gnostic leader. Even so, some early Christians were caught up in Gnosticism.
- The system is seen in **Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 John, Jude and the Revelation**; however, Gnosticism did not become full blown until the 2nd century. Marcion (144) was the first clearly identifiable Gnostic leader. He came up with a canon of Scripture which took out all Jewish parts, part of Paul's writings and all things material. He affirmed that only the Scriptures he chose were authentic. The most influential Gnostic leader was Valentinus who wrote *The Gospel of Thomas*. It is one of the pillars of *The Da Vinci Code*. Many other spurious writings came on the scene and some of them were viewed by many as having the authority of Scripture.

¹ Carl Deimer, Professor, *History of Christianity I*, Lesson 7, Liberty University DLP, 2004.

GREEK PHILOSOPHY

- There were many Greek philosophies, but the one that most infiltrated Christianity was Neoplatonism. Its emphasis was on _____. It saw the flesh as a ____ thing, God as impersonal and taught that eventually all things will be swallowed up in *the great all* which is purely spirit. According to this philosophy, there is no physical heaven and there will be no resurrection.²
- _____ (182-254) was one of the most influential proponents of Greek philosophy. Some of the more corrupt aspects of Origen include:³
 - He embraced much Gnosticism.
 - He turned all Bible events into _____. He said, “The Scriptures are of little use to those who understand them as they are written.”
 - He was a follower of Plato and embraced his philosophy.
 - He taught that the soul existed from eternity before it inhabited the body, and that after death it migrated to a higher or lower form of life according to the deeds done in the body. He said the soul would eventually return to the state of pure intelligence, only to begin again the same cycles as before. This is really belief in a continuing state of reincarnation.
 - Origen also believed that _____ would be saved, that the stars and planets had souls, and that they are all on trial to learn perfection.
 - In reality Origen was a mystical pantheist, a model of most eastern religions.
- Origen had enormous influence. “When we come to Origen, we speak the name of him who did the most of all to create and give direction to the forces of apostasy down through the centuries.”⁴
 - Origen greatly influenced Jerome who translated the Latin Vulgate which became the cornerstone of the Catholic Bible. From his day forward Origen has had enormous influence on the Church of Rome.
 - Jerome is the chief figure who perpetuated and accelerated those corruptions which became the basis of _____. Jerome and those corruptions were exposed once the Crusaders were introduced to the Byzantine manuscripts or Majority Texts. Somehow modern scholars contend that it is the Alexandrian Text that is superior, not the Byzantine Text which exposed it.

IMPORTANT OBSERVATIONS

- Many of the corruptions which entered Christianity and found their way into some of the manuscripts occurred within the first 100-300 years after Christ and the Apostles.

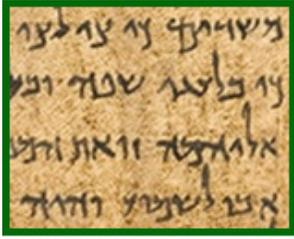
² Ibid.

³ Wilkinson, 192-193.

⁴ Ibid.

Early Corruptions

- From Origen forward there have been _____ or families of manuscripts.
 - The large family and vast majority of manuscripts which line up in close harmony and form the Byzantine, Traditional or Received Text.
 - The small family of corrupted manuscripts which reflect Gnosticism and Greek philosophy.
- The vast number of Byzantine manuscripts and the small number of Alexandrian manuscripts is glaring testimonial to the fact that Byzantine type texts prevailed up to and during the time of Constantine (early 4th century). They are not called by the name Byzantine Text, but that's what they were because that's the kind of copies which came forth when Constantine called for copies of the Scriptures in 323.
 - (1) The sudden explosion of _____ (2) at the time the Byzantine manuscripts began to appear is good testimony to the nature of the content of the source texts being copied.
 - They were not of the Alexandrian type. They were of the Byzantine type, so much so that the copies were given the name Byzantine Text.
 - Surely if Constantine and those early church leaders had thought the Alexandrian Text was older and superior, that's the text they would have wanted copied.
 - It seems quite obvious that early Christians were able to tell which manuscripts most correctly captured the _____ from those that were spurious and corrupted. Even Constantine could tell. They chose the legitimate and rejected the spurious, and what they chose went with Constantine to Constantinople (Byzantium) where many copies were made. Once he left Rome, the Western Roman Catholic Church began to take shape under the God-rejecting bishops of Rome. Origen's influence grew, Jerome's Alexandrian influence Latin Vulgate fed the flames of departure from New Testament Christianity and *orthodoxy* became tradition and what the church taught rather than Scripture. There was no interest in staying with the Scriptures as originally given and thus no interest in a true Greek text or a translation thereof. In fact, the Scriptures were taken away from the common man. However God preserved His Word in the Eastern World in the Majority Texts which ultimately exposed the Alexandrian Text.
- In spite of these realities, many of the modern versions of the English Bible give great respect to and are _____ on the corrupted Alexandrian family of early manuscripts. (Please remember that not every part of the Alexandrian Text is evil; however, many parts are.)



The Reliability of Your Bible

Lesson 5 Two Greek Texts

Text from Great Isaiah scroll
at Qumran - Cave 1 (1QIsa^a)

Two Greek texts form the basis of most translations.

THE GREEK TEXT OF DESIDERIUS ERASMUS

The Need for a _____ Greek Text

- The Crusades took westerners to the east where they encountered eastern _____ and copies of the Scriptures in Greek and other languages.
- This exposed the _____ of most of the western world. Authentic Greek copies of the New Testament also exposed the corruptions in the family of manuscripts embraced by Roman Catholicism, especially Jerome's Latin Vulgate.
- The vast evils and corruptions of the Roman Catholic Church were laid bare.
- There was an obvious need for a standardized Greek New Testament which embodied the true original Scriptures.

Desiderius _____ and His Work

- In the 16th century Erasmus was the most outstanding Greek scholar in _____. He was a devout Roman Catholic monk who wanted to reform the Roman Catholic Church from within.
- In _____ Erasmus published a critical edition of the Greek New Testament. Though he mainly used only five manuscripts, Erasmus had many more at his disposal including those from the Alexandrian family of manuscripts. "There were hundreds of manuscripts for Erasmus to examine, and he did; but he used only a few. What matters? The vast bulk of manuscripts in Greek are practically all the Received Text." ¹ "The copies employed were selected because they were known to represent the accuracy of the Sacred Word." ²
- The accuracy of Erasmus' Greek New Testament is corroborated by (1) 99% of all ancient Greek manuscripts, (2) ancient versions or translations and (3) the writings of ancient church writers who quoted or alluded to the Scriptures of their day over 86,000 times.³

¹ Ibid., 226.

² Edward F. Hills, *The Magnificent Burgon, Which Bible?*, 93.

³ Waite, 53.

Textus Receptus

- In the days that followed, Erasmus edited his work. Editions of his New Testament Greek Text were printed by Robert Stephanus (1550), Theodore Beza (1598) and Lodewijk Elzevir (1624). Since the days of Elzevir, this Greek New Testament has been called the _____ or Textus Receptus.
- Greek scholar A.T. Robertson said, “It should be stated at once that the Textus Receptus is not a bad text. It is not an heretical text. It is substantially correct.”⁴ Dr. Robertson went on to point out that Textus Receptus became the standard for 300 years. Outside of Roman Catholicism, the Textus Receptus was essentially undisputed for all those centuries.
- Textus Receptus is the base _____ text of the King James translation.

LOYOLA AND THE JESUITS

Who They Were

- The Roman Catholic Church has ___ organizations or orders of men. They all answer to the Pope and each order has its own line of endeavor and reason for existing: Augustinians, Benedictines, Templars, Dominicans, Jesuits, etc.
- The Jesuits stand predominately _____ all other orders. The general of the Jesuits has great authority with all ranks of the Catholic clergy both regular and secular.
- The deep ire of the Roman Catholic Church was stirred to action by Martin Luther’s German translation of the Greek New Testament of Erasmus. That translation was fuel on the already blazing fires of the Protestant Reformation.
- The founder of the Jesuits was Ignatius Loyola, a brilliant military Spaniard.

The Jesuit Goal

- Loyola’s goal was to capture the _____ and _____. “We will gain control of instruction in law, medicine, science, education and so weed out from all books of instruction, anything injurious to Roman Catholicism. We will enroll ourselves as Protestant preachers and college professors in the different Protestant faiths. Sooner or later, we will undermine the authority of the Greek New Testament of Erasmus, and also of those Old Testament productions which have dared to raise their heads above tradition.”⁵
- With an army of bright young Catholic boys, Loyola began to raise up an academic army which infiltrated Europe. By 1582 the Jesuits dominated 287 colleges and universities in Europe.
- Wherever they went, they _____ and _____ Erasmus’ Greek New Testament. Discontent and disillusionment against the Textus Receptus and the King James Bible grew among liberal Church of England leaders and the academic community at Oxford and Cambridge.

⁴ Wilkinson, 246.

⁵ Ibid., 232-233.

The Jesuit Bible

- In 1582 the Jesuits launched a Bible to directly counter William Tyndale's English Version.
- The Jesuits were ruthless. During the Protestant Reformation, the Jesuits entrenched themselves at every level of life throughout Europe. With lies, intimidation, trickery, deceit, brute force, the force of secular law and in every possible way they sought to _____ and _____ the Textus Receptus. Undermining faith by textual criticism was their chief method. Their most successful tool was the Jesuit Bible which was based on the handful of manuscripts corrupted by Gnosticism and Greek philosophy.

THE REVISED GREEK TEXT OF WESTCOTT AND HORT

Warning from the Apostle Paul

- As early as the Apostle Paul there were biases against the truths of God. He warned of:
 - The exalting of man's _____ above the Word of God. **1 Timothy 6:20**. The germs of Gnosticism were there and they have proliferated.
 - The _____ of Scriptures. **2 Timothy 2:16-18**. This is currently the great bastion of those who deny the literal truths of the Bible.
 - The substitution of _____ for revelation. **Colossians 2:8**.

Who Were Westcott and Hort

- Brooke Foss Westcott was an Anglican bishop and Fenton John Anthony Hort was a teacher at Cambridge University. Both were "theological heretics (posing as conservatives) from the Anglican Church (Church of England)." In 1881 they "published their Greek text that rejected the Textus Receptus in 5,604 places . . . This included 9,970 Greek words that were either added, subtracted, or changed from Textus Receptus." ⁶ As will be later noted, all of these changes were not without reasons.
- These men were given to surmising, conjecture, decisions without evidence and changing Scripture to _____ to their theological biases.
- Some of their theological biases include:
 - Worship of Mary.
 - Support of the Roman Catholic Church.
 - Roman Catholic ritualism.
 - Rejection of Christ's atonement.

⁶ Waite, 41.

Two Greek Texts

- Rejection of divine inspiration.
- Rejection of a literal view of the Scriptures.
- Hort was the dominating personality of the two.

Their _____ Manuscripts

- They became aware of the two main _____ supporting the Alexandrian Text.
 - A manuscript called Codex _____ or (B).
 - This manuscript was discovered in the Vatican library.
 - It is thought to be from the 4th century and is one of the oldest, almost complete New Testaments in existence.
 - Until the 18th century, it was basically ignored in the Vatican Library.
 - Erasmus knew of its existence, but did not use it in preparing his Greek text.⁷
 - This manuscript is in the Alexandrian family of manuscripts and significantly varies from the Received Text.
 - A manuscript called Codex _____ or Aleph.
 - Around 1870 Constantin von Tischendorf found the manuscript in a waste paper basket at St. Catherine's Monastery at the foot of Mt. Sinai. Its pages were being used to start fires.
 - This manuscript is also in the Alexandrian family of manuscripts and varies significantly from the Received Text.
- These manuscripts were in line with the apostate _____ of Westcott and Hort who declared them to be *better manuscripts*.
 - The main contention of Westcott and Hort was that older is better.
 - That is not necessarily true. An older manuscript may indeed be better, but it may be worse. Each manuscript must be evaluated upon its own merit. Age is only one of many considerations.
 - Sinaiticus and Vaticanus are often out of harmony with the vast number of extant manuscripts.
 - The evidence indicates that:
 - The Vatican manuscript was in excellent condition because it was not used. It can be concluded that even Catholics like Erasmus knew it was spurious.
 - The Sinai manuscript was considered trash and discarded. It too appears to have been recognized as spurious.

⁷ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Codex_Vaticanus

Hort's Argument

- Changing the thinking of a world that had accepted the Received Text for over 1,000 years and which had accepted Textus Receptus as accurate and authoritative for 300 years would be no easy task.
- Hort argued that in the 4th century Eastern Church leaders of the Byzantine Empire began the orchestration of copying New Testament Scriptures. According to Hort, this was the Received Text which was then copied multiple times from the stem text of the Byzantines. According to him, this accounts for the large number of manuscripts which constitute the Byzantine or Majority Text.
- Hort then argued that the multitude of later manuscripts were all merely copies of this one text. Thus, according to Hort, the multitude of manuscripts supporting the Received Text really constitute _____ document, not many. Hort essentially claimed that the Received Text was _____ and must be discounted as inferior. He argued the small number of Alexandrian manuscripts are better because they are older and because they constitute independent manuscripts. His argument and that of many who embrace his thinking is that manuscripts must be evaluated on their quality, not their quantity. Because he thought the vast number of Majority manuscripts are mere carbon copies, he said they were inferior to the small number of independent and *older manuscripts* in the Alexandrian family.
- Hort's theory _____ reason.⁸
 - First there is no evidence of such a meeting of early Christian leaders to decide a text from which all future copies were to be made. Dr. David Otis Fuller quoted from Dean Burgon's book, "Not the slightest confirmation is given to Dr. Hort's notion that a revision or recension was definitely accomplished at Antioch in the middle of the fourth century. There was a gradual improvement as the traditional text gradually established itself against the forward and persistent intrusion of corruption."⁹ (Hort argued that there is no need for evidence of such a meeting. He said the agreement of so many documents is sufficient proof of such a conspiracy.)
 - Second it is ridiculous to imagine that so many who wrote almost identical manuscripts unknowing of each other over so many centuries in so many languages could have possibly conspired. Keep in mind that many of these (not all) were outside the Roman Catholic Church. It is preposterous to imagine that there was human oversight or guidance to the vast number of copies that came forth.
 - Arguing that two or more independent witnesses who agree on an issue constitute only one witness due to their harmonious accounts defies common sense and law. When five people independently witness a murder or 100 people witness an explosion, in a court of law they do not constitute only one witness. Hort's thinking was twisted, and his "logic" was illogical. He is a classic example of "*wresting*" the Word of God, which is a common tactic of textual critics and of a growing number of those who currently handle the Scriptures. **2 Peter 3:15-17**

⁸ Waite, 54.

⁹ Dean Burgon, *In Defense of the Textus Receptus – The Basis of the King James Version, Which Bible?*, 129.

The Revision Committee

- One of the most amazing things about Hort's arguments is the fact that the masses _____ it.
- The efforts of the Jesuits known as the Oxford movement had taken a toll. A theological bias in favor of Rome was affecting men in high _____. Within the Church of England, there was a strong attempt to substitute a Greek New Testament which would theologically discredit the long-accepted authority of the Textus Receptus and the King James Bible.¹⁰
- The time was ripe for Westcott and Hort. They negotiated a revision committee for the specific purpose of _____ and _____ Textus Receptus with a New Greek text. The meeting was dominated by Hort.
- The Revision Committee:
 - Was composed mostly of men sympathetic to the _____ _____ of Hort. There was a small element of men led by Frederick Henry Ambrose Scrivener who were committed to a Greek text faithful to the original manuscripts. They were outnumbered and outvoted.
 - Embraced textual _____.
 - The methods of textual critics are basically the same with regard to both the Old and New Testaments. They:
 - Rarely if ever take any claims of Scripture to be literal.
 - Believe the Scriptures to be figurative.
 - Spiritualize almost everything.
 - Do not believe in divine inspiration.
 - See no Scripture as sacred.
 - Have no problem adding, subtracting or changing words.
 - Have no problem arbitrarily changing Scripture without justification simply because they choose to do so, especially to make it agree with their preconceived notions and beliefs.
 - Hort's revision committee generally confined itself to lower textual criticism; however, higher textual critics attack the Scripture in many ways. They are often involved with new translations. They:
 - Question and deny the authors.
 - Argue that the internal evidence (style, wording, different accounts of the same sermon or event, etc.) and suggest the authors are not who the Scriptures say they are.
 - Say many of the Scriptures were made up by the community of Christians long after the time under consideration.

¹⁰ Wilkinson, 283.

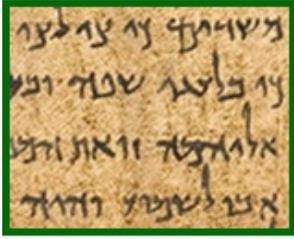
THE RELIABILITY OF YOUR BIBLE

- Say the community of Christian wrote the Scriptures to conform to their beliefs. (That the Scriptures are the man-made product of the people, not that the Scriptures were given of God to be the sole authority to guide the direction of the people.)
 - Ignored the great mass of _____.
 - Aligned themselves extensively with the Alexandrian family of ancient manuscripts.
 - Leaned heavily on the Vaticanus and the Sinaiticus manuscripts.
 - To avoid a wholesale rejection of their work, they included parts of the Received Text; however, in many cases they added footnotes casting doubt on the authority and reliability of those portions of Scripture.
- Its product: The _____ Greek Text.
 - Published in 1881.
 - Often with little or no basis for doing so, they changed the wording and meanings of the Scriptures from Textus Receptus. They were not hesitant to change the Scriptures and soften their meanings especially when it fit their theological biases and practices to do so. They repeatedly changed, left out and added words sometimes justifiably so and often without justification.
 - The Revised Greek Text is a very different Greek text than Textus Receptus. It is a departure from the vast body of manuscripts preserved and passed on in the Majority Texts.

The Widespread Acceptance of the Revised Greek Text

- In 1898 Eberhard Nestle published a Greek edition of The New Testament based _____ on the Revised Greek Text of Westcott and Hort. He also used the Greek text of Tischendorf and the Greek text of Richard Weymouth. Where they differed Nestle made changes as he saw fit.¹¹ Nestle's work has been revised and updated many times.
- American seminaries and most seminaries worldwide embrace the Revised Greek Text and use one of the Nestle-Aland editions as their _____.
- Almost all modern _____ of the Bible into English other than the King James Version are based totally or in-part on the Revised Greek Text of Westcott and Hort.

¹¹ <http://www.nestle-aland.com/en/history/>



The Reliability of Your Bible

Lesson 6 Translating

Text from Great Isaiah scroll
at Qumran - Cave 1 (1QIsa^a)

Translating Challenges

- Review: a *source* text and a *target* text.
- Translating is not as _____ as it may at first seem.
 - Words in different languages do not always perfectly _____.
 - Seldom does a word in one language convey 100% the same meaning as the equivalent word in another language.
 - For example, take the word “large.” In the Hebrew there are at least 5 words all of which the King James translators translated the same, as *large*. Each Hebrew word has a different shade of meaning.
 - “Rechab” (raw-khawb’) = roomy.
 - “Rechab” (raw-khawb’) = to broaden.
 - “Merchab” (mer-khawb) = enlargement.
 - “Yad” (yawd) = hand and indicating power.
 - “Ravach” (raw-vakh’) = to breath freely indicating ample room.
 - From language to language, sentence structure _____ greatly.
 - Possessives may vary.
 - Example: English: John’s house. Spanish: Casa de Juan.
 - Words can change meanings over time. Within the last generation the word *gay* has taken on a vastly different meaning. Likewise the word *conversation*.
 - Words can become extinct and new words can come on the scene. For example: *Behemoth* and *leviathan* and the new word *dinosaur*.
 - Different languages have differing _____.
 - The absence of vowels in Hebrew.
 - The Greek aorist tense.
 - Hebrew reads from right to left.

- There is also the issue of *variants*.
 - In the vast numbers of Greek and other manuscripts, there are _____ in wording.¹
 - Various people through the ages who copied or simply wrote down Scriptures did not always use the exact same wording, phraseology or sentence structure.
 - Some included, omitted or changed words found in other ancient _____. This may or may not have been intentional on their parts.² In view of the random nature of such occurrences, it is hard to believe that in most cases they were intentional, reflective of a preconceived bias against truth or a part of a conspiracy to corrupt the Word of God. Most of those who copied Scriptures were ordinary people with human frailties. It is astounding that the vast number of manuscripts are in such lock-step agreement. The fact is that most differences are quite trivial and devoid of theological significance.³
 - When translators encounter variants in their source texts, they must make elective, best judgment decisions. Is it honest for them to add a word that actually is not there just to please the orthodox community that is likely to condemn them if they don't? Do they omit a word that is actually in a manuscript in order to make their translation conform to the norm?
 - Those who would standardize the original languages also had to face the issue of variants. That included Erasmus and the King James translators. For example, Erasmus's *Textus Receptus* "is its own text, and it is often found in disagreement with the Majority Text as well as with the modern critical texts."⁴ Erasmus had to make choices as to which document at his disposal was closest to the truth of God's original autographs. In his later revision of Erasmus' work, Theodore Beza even went so far as to use a *conjectural emendation* which is to make a change without manuscript evidence.⁵ That change is in Revelation 16:5 and is a part of the King James Bible. Beza changed Erasmus' text
 - from: "Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, **O Holy One**"
 - to: "Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, **and shalt be.**"
 - Beza' conjectural emendation became a part of the King James Bible.
 - It is good to stand like a fortress against any effort to change the truth of the Word of God, but it is dangerous and evil to damn all who do not express the same truth with the exact same wording.

Important Observations

- In all translating there are _____ calls: choice of words, sentence structure and more.
- The goal of the honest translator is to convey to the target text the _____ of the source text.

¹ White, 63-67.

² Carson, 21-24.

³ Ibid., 63.

⁴ White, 107.

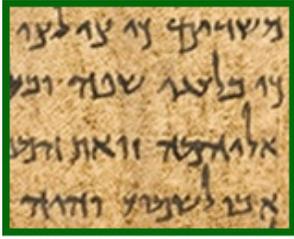
⁵ Ibid., 105.

The Two Main Approaches to Translating

- Formal equivalency.
 - This is ___-___-___ translating. (Remember that even in formal equivalency there is always variance from language to language.)
 - The translator seeks to not impose his thoughts or ideas into the message. He simply does his best to convey the message of the source text to the target text as accurately and faithfully as possible.
 - He may or may not agree with the message. It is not his task to sit in judgment: correct, improve or change the message. His task is simply to deliver the message as given.
 - A translation of this type is sometimes known as a _____ translation. Plenary means complete in every respect. It is fully attended or constituted.
- Dynamic equivalency.
 - In this type of translating, the translator attempts to convey the message to the target text _ _ _ _ _ , not necessarily in the words of the source text. He may or may not use all or part of the words of the source text.
 - To this translator the _____ is more important than the wording. There is therefore no compulsion to convey it word-for-word.
 - To varying degrees dynamic equivalency translations are commentaries rather than translations. They are not necessarily what the source text says. A translation of this kind is what the translator thinks it says, wants it to say, or what he thinks the receiving audience will easily understand.
 - To a small degree even the King James translation has a sprinkling of dynamic equivalency; however, by the use of italics the King James translators identified their dynamic equivalent effort to maintain the sense of a passage.

The Majority of Bible Translators

- Consider the small number of _____ manuscripts to be legitimate and use them as source text material. They do not rely on the Alexandrian manuscripts exclusively, but they dominate.
- Are sympathetic to and lean heavily upon the inferior _____ Greek Text of Westcott and Hort.
- Use heavily the dynamic equivalency method of translating.
- Are motivated by money. (Copyrighted.)
- Have a _____ and a preconceived agenda.



The Reliability of Your Bible

Lesson 7 The King James Bible

Text from Great Isaiah scroll
at Qumran - Cave 1 (1QIsa^a)

The _____ for a Standard English Bible

- By the turn of the 17 century in England, Puritans had become powerful. Though a part of the Church of England, they were very much at odds with Anglicanism and were pushing for tolerance. King James had recently come to the throne. He lived at Hampton Court near London. He wanted to be tolerant and a reconciler of religious differences, and thus called a meeting at his palace in order for the Puritans to state their case. They met January 14, 16 and 17, 1604.
- Dr. John Rainolds, who was president of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, suggested that a new translation of the Bible be undertaken. After considerable wrangling, the king gave his _____ and the King James Bible was born.¹
- On the title page of the King James Bible appear the words, “By His Majesty’s Special Commandment.” This appears on the title page of no other English Bible, before or since. It is a reference to King James’ decree at the Hampton Court Conference in 1604. Hence the King James Bible is called the Authorized Version.²

The Translators

- They were honorable men.
 - They were mostly Anglicans and it can hardly be denied that there was a strong influence of Anglican ecclesiology.³ In his instructions, King James required “The old ecclesiastical words to be kept, viz. The word *church* not to be translated *congregation*.”⁴ This is seen in the word *church* rather than *assembly* and the transliterated word *baptize* rather than *immerse*. Even so it is clear that they did not change the stance of the source texts they had; instead they did not exercise the best choice of words.
 - They believed in _____.
 - They believed the _____ were authored by God, and not on the same level with any other writings. Here is a portion of what they wrote regarding the Scriptures. “*The original thereof being from heaven, not from earth, the author being God, not man; the inditer, the Holy Spirit,*

¹ Laurence M. Vance, *King James, His Bible and It’s Translators*, (Pensacola, Florida: Vance Publications, 2006), 16, 20-22.

² *Ibid.*, 91.

³ White, 117.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 116.

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not the wit of the Apostles or Prophets; the penmen, such as were sanctified from the womb, and endued with a principle portion of God's Spirit; the matter, verity, piety, purity, uprightness; the form, God's word, God's testimony, God's oracles, the word of truth, the word of salvation, etc.; the effects, light of understanding, stableness of persuasion, repentance from dead works, newness of life, holiness, peace, joy in the Holy Ghost; lastly, the end and reward of the study thereof, fellowship with the saints, participation of the heavenly nature, fruition of an inheritance immortal, undefiled, and that never shall fade away: Happy is the man that delighteth in the Scriptures, and thrice happy that meditateth in it day and night.”⁵

- To these men translating the Scriptures was a very sacred task.
- Their motive was to come forth with an English translation of the Scriptures that was as _____ to the original manuscripts as was humanly possible.

Their Scholarship and Expertise

- The scholarship and expertise of any group working on a translation of the Bible has never before or since come close to matching that of the King James translators. They had extraordinary _____ prowess and the highest of _____. Most of them spoke or read _____ languages. They were also _____ men.
- I would highly recommend that anyone serious about the character and qualifications of these men research who they were. Records as to who they were abound. One excellent source is *Which Bible*.⁶ *Defending the King James Bible* also has extensive information about those who translated the King James Bible.⁷

Their Approach

- A team effort.
 - As many as 57 men worked on this project though all were not present at all times during the translation. Some died before the translation was completed.
 - The translators were subdivided into ____ companies. They met in three cities from _____: Cambridge, Westminster and Oxford.
 - Westminster had an Old Testament and a New Testament company.
 - Oxford had an Old Testament and a New Testament company.
 - Cambridge had a company for the Old Testament and one for the Apocrypha. (Though the translators translated the Apocrypha, they did not believe it to be a part of the Scriptures.)
 - On average each group or company had 7-8 men.

⁵ Waite, 65.

⁶ Terrance H. Brown, *The Leaned Men, Which Bible?*, 13-24.

⁷ Waite, 63-82.

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- Each company was assigned _____ books to translate.
 - The Westminster Company.
 - Old Testament Group were to translate Genesis through 2 Kings.
 - New Testament Group were to translate Romans through Jude.
 - The Oxford Company.
 - Old Testament Group were to translate Isaiah through Malachi.
 - New Testament Group were to translate the four gospels, Acts and the Revelation.
 - The Cambridge Company.
 - Old Testament Group were to translate 1 Chronicles through Ecclesiastes.
 - The other Cambridge Group were to translate the Apocrypha.
- Every man on the six companies was required to translate each of the books assigned to his company in his own handwriting.
- King James established 15 _____ for translating.
 - One rule required each man in each company to personally translate all Scripture assigned to his company. Once each man completed the entire translation and edited his work to his satisfaction, all members of the company were to meet and agree on a final committee version.
 - Once the company agreed, their version was to be submitted to each of the other companies for review and editing.
 - After each man in each company critically analyzed all work from all companies, a joint meeting of two men from each company was convened. This team analyzed the product at this stage and agreed on a central document.
 - After this step the proposed translation was submitted to the learned scholars throughout the land for critical review and recommended amendments.
 - By the time the translating was completed, the King James Bible had been critically proofread, reviewed and edited not less than 14 times.⁸
- Available resources.
 - Before them the King James translators had ____ of the known extant manuscripts and translations of that time. They had Erasmus' Textus Receptus plus all of the resources available to Erasmus when he established Textus Receptus; however, they had far more resources than Erasmus had. They had access to all English translations, German translations and others. They had the vast pool of ancient manuscripts including the Greek. They had the Greek Septuagint, the Latin Vulgate of Jerome, the Latin Vulgate used by the Waldenses, the Received Text and stream of texts used by Eusebius and Constantine.⁹ *"It is then clear that among the cursive and uncial*

⁸ Ibid., 83-87.

⁹ Wilkinson, 249.

The King James Bible

manuscripts which the reformers possessed, the majority agreed with the Received Text; however, there were a few among these documents which belonged to the counterfeit family. These dissenting few presented all the problems which can be found in the Alexandrinus, the Vaticanus, and the Sinaiticus. In other words, the translators of the King James came to a diametrically opposite conclusion from that arrived at by the Revisers of 1881, although the men of 1611, as well as those of 1881, had before them the same problems and the same evidence.”¹⁰

- It is important to keep in mind that they were aware of the so-called *older manuscript* line of thinking embodied in the Vaticanus and the Sinaiticus. *“The problems presented by these two manuscripts were well known, not only to the translators of the King James, but also to Erasmus.”*¹¹ Critics have made quite an issue about the Alexandrinus, Vaticanus and Sinaitic manuscripts that have been made available since the King James Bible was completed in 1611. *“It is that thousands of manuscripts have been brought to life since 1611, but it must be emphasized that the great majority of these are in substantial agreement with the Traditional Text underlying the Reformers’ Bibles and the King James Version.”*¹²
- Their translation method:
 - From the vast pool of resources available to the King James translators, they mainly _____ which is primarily embodied in Textus Receptus.
 - They employed the Verbal or Formal Equivalence technique, and rejected the Dynamic Equivalence approach.¹³ They believed the Scriptures are the Word of God, and that they do not merely *contain* the Word of God. Their goal was to faithfully use the English words, grammar and syntax that most closely paralleled the best documented pure Hebrew and Greek texts in existence, and thus produce an English text that conveyed those texts. They would give readers a true translation of what the texts said. They refused to insert their own opinions, interpretations and ideas into the texts. They simply gave the texts and left interpretations and commentaries up to the reader.

Their Product and Its Revisions

- The KJV was completed and published _____, _____.
- The original has been revised _____ times (1629, 1638, 1762 and 1769).¹⁴
- The original _____ has not changed. The revisions consisted of corrections and upgrades in ten areas: (1) making spelling consistent, (2) changing old English to modern, (3) changing shortened words to full length, (4) adding previously omitted words, (5) adding words for clarity, (6) changing

¹⁰ Ibid., 255-256.

¹¹ Ibid., 253.

¹² Ibid., 250.

¹³ Waite, 89.

¹⁴ Bruce Lackey, *Why I Believe the Old King James Bible*, (London, Ontario: Bethel Baptist Print Ministry, 1987), 63.

word forms to modern English, (7) upgrading italicized words, (8) correcting printer errors, (9) correcting probable printer errors and (10) improving word orders.¹⁵

The Enormous Impact and Success of the King James Bible

- The King James Bible was an astounding success. From every viewpoint it was a _____ of translation. It is accurate and embodies literary style that is eloquent, yet pure and simple.¹⁶
- The British Empire was coming into world dominance. With it the King James Bible went _____ - _____. It came to America, and as America became a world super-power, the King James Bible went in soldiers' packs and with missionaries to every corner of the earth. It was translated into other languages. It became the Bible for churches and a text book for schools. *"More than any other event in the history of mankind, the production of the King James Bible put the Word of God into the hands of the people, not only clerics and church officials but also common, ordinary people."*¹⁷
- No book in the history of mankind has _____ the world like the Holy Bible, and no translation of the Bible into any language has impacted mankind like the English King James Bible. Furthermore that enormous impact has been wholly positive and for the better.

King James Onlyism

- King James 1 of England was formerly King James IV of Scotland. He wanted a _____, _____ Bible to be read and used in the churches of England. This became the official position of England. The _____ agreed and made the King James Bible their official Bible.¹⁸
- Current King James Onlyism is quite different. It breaks down into _____ basic stances.¹⁹
 - There are those who like the King James Bible best of all English translations. They dislike, but tolerate other translations.
 - There are those who believe the original texts underlying the King James translation are superior to all other original language texts.
 - There are those who believe that the Received texts embodied in Textus Receptus have been supernaturally preserved. They also believe the same about the Masoretic Texts. Their emphasis is on the underlying texts. They leave the door open for a better translation.
 - There are those who believe the King James Bible is inspired. They say the King James Bible alone is the Word of God.
 - There are those who claim the King James Bible is a new revelation which supersedes all previous revelation. These believe the King James Bible corrects the Hebrew and Greek.

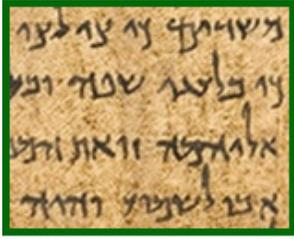
¹⁵ Ibid., 64-72.

¹⁶ Herman Hanko, *Our Venerable King James Bible*, (Lansing, Illinois: Peace Protestant Reformed Church), 4-5. (www.peaceprc.org/ourvenerablekjv.pdf).

¹⁷ Lester Hutson, *A History of Churches: The Survival of New Testament Christianity Against Overwhelming Odds*, (Charleston, SC: Amazon, 2013), 363.

¹⁸ Vance, 95-104.

¹⁹ White, 23-28.



The Reliability of Your Bible

Lesson 8 Summary and Conclusions

Text from Great Isaiah scroll
at Qumran - Cave 1 (1QIsa^a)

Conclusions

- The Word of God has faced many efforts to _____ it.
 - Efforts against the source texts.
 - The translation process.
- The Word of God has not been _____.
 - God promised to preserve His Word. **Psalm 12:6-7. Psalm 119:89. 111, 152, 160. Matthew 5:17-18.**
 - The multitude of ancient manuscripts have prevented it from becoming lost.
 - The King James Bible is an accurate portrayal of God's truth.
- The multitudes of _____ have proven to be among Satan's most effective efforts to undermine, obscure and defeat the Word of God.
 - **"Hath God said?" Genesis 3:1.**
 - History is repeating itself.
 - *Did God really say that?*
 - *Is that really what God said?*
 - *Did God literally mean that?*
 - *How do we know?*

Cautions

- Our measuring device is the _____ of God.
- Our objective is to find ____ truth.
 - Truth would still be truth even if there was no _____ record.
 - The truth was the truth before it was written down.
 - The truth does not have to be fully known in whole for what is known in part to be true.

THE RELIABILITY OF YOUR BIBLE

- The Old Testament was true even though the New Testament was not written.
- Individually and collectively every book of the Bible is true, but each book would still be true even if there were no other books.
- Even in stories and reports laced with falsehoods and error, there can be statements and elements of truth. In some cases, there is more truth and in other cases there is less.
- Even a bad manuscript or translation may include some degree of truth.
- The truth of any document or report must not be fully discounted or disregarded because the entire document is not without error.
- A poor translation of the Bible may include much truth, and that truth cannot be rejected because the whole is corrupted. (Those with such a translation should secure a translation that is trustworthy.)
- God did give us a _____ record of His truth.
 - We have no original copies of God's written record.
 - There are thousands of copies that were made from the originals.
 - There are also thousands of references to the originals found in ancient writings.
 - No single document or manuscript exists that has all of the truth ___ ___ _____ or that does not contain a poor choice of words or translation weakness here or there.
 - Words are important, but truth does not depend on a particular word or choice of words. Even when a wrong or weak word is used, God's truth still stands. Words are merely efforts to convey the truths behind the words.
 - If truth depends upon the use of the exact word God used, then no translation could ever be made because each language uses different words to convey the same truth. Furthermore, preaching would be absolutely forbidden because preachers spend whole sermons trying to explain with many words what God meant with His Hebrew and Greek words.
 - Yet many, especially King James Only people, become quite indignant over the use of some words in other translations. That's hypocritical. The KJV is full of words different from those God used in His Hebrew and Greek autographs. By their use of an English Bible, they are guilty of the same thing they mercilessly condemn in others; namely the use of words other than God used. The argument is ridiculous.
 - God's truth is still truth regardless of the words used to express it.
 - Furthermore it is not dependent upon one manuscript or one translation. If every manuscript and every translation including the King James Bible suddenly vanished off the face of the earth, the truth of God's Word would still stand.
 - From the thousands of copies and from references to the originals, it is possible to reconstruct God's revelation as He gave it.

Summary and Conclusions

- The vast majority of all ancient manuscripts (99%) are in harmony and agreement.
- Ancient documents that are in disagreement (1%) stand out and are obviously spurious.
- Even in spurious documents the differences are not as great and massive as may be assumed by many.
- It is clear that God did not put all His truth in one single manuscript or translation. He put it in a multitude of manuscripts so that any bad or spurious manuscripts or copies would be easily identifiable.
- It is obvious that God preserved His truth _____ and texts. He insured that His truth would not be lost over the ages. “It is a far more real miracle for God to take the work of multiple authors, written in multiple locations, in multiple contexts, writing to multiple audiences, during a time of Imperial persecution, working through the very mechanisms of history (just like he did with His people in the Old Covenant), and in that process create the single most attested text in all antiquity where less than one percent of the text requires us to engage in serious examination of the sources to determine the original reading.”¹
- The Bible that best brings the original texts into one document is the King James Bible.
- Translating is a most _____ and _____ business.
 - All of us would do well to keep in mind.
 - People got saved, churches proliferated and Christianity flourished for several centuries _____ there was a written New Testament in canon² form.
 - Christianity flourished for 14 _____ before the Bible reached the English language.
 - Christianity flourished for 16 centuries before the King James Bible came into existence.
 - No human now or in any age knows or has known ___ truth.
 - It is not necessary to know all truth to know some truth.
 - Even with an accurate and reliable translation of the Bible such as the King James translation, not one of us fully grasps all truth, even the truth set forth in the Bible.
 - The Greek Septuagint is a _____ of the Old Testament from Hebrew to Koine Greek which was completed in B.C. 132.³
 - It was translated by ___ scholars and is thus known as LXX, the translation of the seventy. Septuagint means seventy.
 - The translation is recognized by people on all sides to have many _____.

¹ Ibid., 307.

² The New Testament canon refers to the 27 books of the New Testament as constituting the finalized revelation of God. The 39 books of the Old Testament were already recognized as a finalized canon of God's earlier revelation.

³ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Septuagint>.

- Even so, it was the translation of the Hebrew Scriptures that was in common use at the time of Jesus and the Apostles. Furthermore, both Jesus and the apostles _____ from it. For example, Jesus quoted from the Septuagint three times when Satan tempted Him: Matthew 4:4, 7, 10.⁴ Paul repeatedly quoted from the Septuagint and even paraphrased as in Romans 11:2-3. He was quoting 1 Kings 19:10 and 14.
- The point is as illustrated by Jesus and His Apostles, a translation does not have to be without weaknesses to be _____ in conveying the truths of God.
- One is on dangerous ground to say that all truth is in this one manuscript or translation and there is no truth outside it. God's Word is absolutely true and those original autographs were without weaknesses. God made sure enough copies were made so His truth as given would never be lost. Since then men have copied and translated His Word and weaknesses have crept in. Satan has capitalized on that, but God has prevailed. For those who seek it, His truth is still there. Legitimate translations are nothing more than the best efforts of humans to convey His Word from one tongue to another as faithfully as possible. Don't completely throw out a good-faith effort by qualified scholars because their translation has weaknesses, and don't imagine that any translation is beyond improvement. The King James Bible is a very good translation, but it is a translation. Those who worked to make it happen were not in the same class with the same infallibility as the prophets and apostles to who God originally revealed and gave His Word.
- It is pretty reckless to say that *if your Bible does not exercise the exact best choice of every English word to convey 100% of the equivalent word in the Hebrew or Greek originals, you need to throw it away and get one that does.* Where are you going to find one that does? The answer is obviously *nowhere*. Such a Bible doesn't exist. Furthermore there does not exist even one original autograph in Hebrew or Greek.
- Textus Receptus is the document and Greek text that best presents the original texts, but it is not perfect. Erasmus took the last six verses of the Revelation straight from Jerome's Latin Vulgate.⁵ Even the King James translators did not follow Textus Receptus 100% of the time.
- Preachers and teachers who support the King James only position are constantly going to the Greek and using a multitude of words in sermons and lessons to try to explain and convey what the Bible says and means. Shall we damn all of them for using words that are not exact matches?
- Our main objective is to convey the truth of God in whatever language we use with whatever word or words that will do it best. We look at the words or phrases used in the original languages and then try to translate them as faithfully as is humanly possible to the new language. When we teach or preach it in the new language we do our best to explain the truths of His Word in such a way that those truths come through with zero distortion. Though words are vitally important in conveying truth, and uttermost care should be given to choosing the best word (especially in translating), the truth is more important than the word or words. God's "words" are what He defines them to be and they are absolute, but man's words used in efforts to fully capture God's words are not absolute.

⁴ A.T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament*, vol. 1, (Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman Press, 1930), 31.

⁵ White, 109-110.

Summary and Conclusions

- Every person in the translating business is _____ in the interpreting business.
 - He must choose the word or words in the target language which best matches that word in the source language. To one degree or another, that is a subjective call, an interpretation on the part of the translator.
 - Languages are _____ fully equal. Words and phrases seldom match up perfectly. Not only words, but syntax is also important. All of the tenses, moods and other idiosyncrasies of languages must come into play. Invariably in translating a little is lost or added.
- We must not allow choice of words, specific phraseologies, sentence structure or other language issues to get in the way of our search for or acceptance of truth.
- A translation should be a _____, not a _____.
 - Let the target translation say what the source text says.
 - Let the translator refrain from inserting into the picture his views, opinions, biases or what he thinks the source text writers meant.
 - Let interpretations and commentaries remain the work of the reader.
 - Let the source text forever remain intact, and never allow a target text to be viewed as a source text. Forever keep clear the distinction between a source text and a target text or translation, and never view a translation or commentary as authoritative as the source text.

My Advice

- Use only a Bible that was translated primarily from the _____ manuscripts with Textus Receptus being the _____ source text.
- Do not use a Bible whose translators were sympathetic to the minority family of ancient manuscripts bypassed by so many outside the Roman Catholic Church.
- Do not use a Bible whose translators gave priority to the Revised Greek Text of Westcott and Hort.
- Use only a Bible that was translated by people who believe in _____ and in the inerrancy of His Word as originally given.
- Use only a Bible that was translated by people who know and are expert in the original languages of the Scriptures.
- Use only a Bible that was translated by people who know and are expert in all of the ancient manuscripts including the Greek manuscripts plus other manuscripts regardless of the languages in which they are found.
- Use only a Bible that was translated by people committed to _____ - _____ or Formal Equivalency _____, and who used Dynamic Equivalency translating only where Formal Equivalency was impossible.

My Personal Practice

- I use the King James Bible which I believe to be the _____, _____ translation of the Scriptures in existence.
- I will stay with the King James Bible until a better translation meeting the criterion cited above comes to the marketplace. (Except in rare cases, I do not think I am currently qualified to over-ride the choices of the King James translators and say they were wrong. As I study and grow, I may see things that I don't now see, but I am confident those cases will be few and not wholesale.)
- In my study, I spend much time researching and studying _____ and _____ words, phrases, grammar, syntax and usage.
- In my study, I spend much time researching and studying commentaries and the works of other men of God.
- My search is for truth _____ _ _____. I am guided by truth. I think the King James Bible is a book of truth and I trust it; however, I believe when God inspired holy men to write the Scriptures, the Hebrew and Greek manuscripts they wrote were perfect. I do not think the King James Bible is wrong; I do reject the idea that it is the only place on earth where men can find truth. I use it, I trust it and I consider it to be true and authoritative, but I also consult scholars like James Strong, A.T. Robertson and others to help me better understand Hebrew and Greek words and their usage. Yes. I am a King James man, but I refuse to limit my search for truth to the King James Bible. I do not believe God has limited truth to the English-speaking world. I think truth was here before the English language or the King James Bible came on the scene. I think Germans, Russians, Frenchmen, Spanish-speaking people and many others have the truth. I think that to date the King James Bible is the best there is, but I think God has seen to it that people who do not have and cannot read the King James English Bible also have sufficient truth for them to come to Christ and serve Him acceptably.
- I am committed to the _____ _ _____, not to one language or translation.